

82 HIGH STREET
BROOKLINE

January 31, '55

Dear Dr. Bowditch,

Lea and Mrs. Langer have already spoken to me about producing something for the Historical Society about High St. Hill. I told them that I could not undertake to produce a real paper or take part in any chat, but that I would jot down such reminiscences as might occur to me. They evidently did not know that this had already been the subject of a meeting of the Historical Society held at Dr. Denny's house not so very many years ago. I forget who contributed the greater part of the material, though I have an impression that it was Dr. Denny himself. Mrs. Denny could tell you,

and perhaps put her hand on any-
thing that he had written. Carl
Goodspeed spoke at that meeting, but
rather more about the "Marsh" and
the "Farm" than of the top of the Hill.

Mrs. J. Rich Kent (17 Hawthorn Road)
and her aunt, Miss Edgerly (who
lived for a long time on the Hill,
but is now no longer living) made
some contributions, as I remember it,
to that meeting, - I think, in written
form. Mrs. Kent could tell you.

Albert Briggs (187 Walnut St.)
grew up on the Hill in the house
which Dr. Keefer tore down when
he bought his place at the
corner of High and Allerton Streets.
He might work up something for
you.

When I have jotted down the
few things that come into my
mind, I will send them to Lea
to do with what you like.

Yours very truly, Henry Ware.

82 HIGH STREET
BROOKLINE

February 14, '55.

Dear Dr. Bowditch,

Thank you for your letter of the 11th, with its amusing tale of Mr. Starrow. He was awfully good to us younger ones, and helped us along with our fun. I hated to see him break up toward the end.

I enclose such notes as I have jotted down. They would read about 20 minutes, if you would want them. They might, perhaps, form part of your afternoon. It occurs to me that Mrs. Ira Rich Kent (Louise Andrews Kent, the authoress, as you doubtless knew) grew up here, and could contribute much from a different angle. For one thing, I have said nothing about the little Swedenborgian church here. Mrs. Kent's mother was one of the Edgerly family who lived here on the Hill and were very loyal to the little church. The person who has lived on the Hill the longest is Mrs.

Dr. Denny. I understood that she is not very well just at present. When she was stronger, she might be willing to write something or talk to you about her recollections. She has always been rather retiring and might not want to do anything. On the other hand the idea might strike her just right.

Other people who grew up on the Hill, who might provide you with material are Albert Briggs (of my generation) and Mrs. John Reidy (of the next). My old crony, Lindsley Loring, (Westwood, Mass) was so much interested in the little paper that I wrote on Walnut St. that he joined the Society. He might help out. Alice Reidy might be willing, among other things, to tell you about the group of youngsters (they were still in school) who got together as a very amateur little orchestra, but had a lot of fun.

I hope you can put your hand on some of the material prepared for the meeting of the Historical Society once held at Dr. Denny's, where the Hill was the subject of the meeting.

Yours truly
Helen Ware

26. 9. '55.

Dear Dr. Bowditch,

I have been jotting down a few things about High St. Hill, and will submit them to you or Lea to see if they would help you out. They would read about 20 minutes.

As to the Shakespeare Club, I have very detailed records of what we read, when and where we read them, and who read what. But it seemed to me that such details would not be of interest to an audience or be of historical value. I had planned to write something like this, —

When people in a locality own their houses and change as little as residents on the Hill have changed, there is apt to be created a neighborly feeling that leads them

to get together in groups for pleasure or improvement. There were two such groups on the Hill that lasted for 40 or 50 years. In their most active days they would meet about once a fortnight, taking care not to conflict with each other's dates, particularly as many were in both groups. One group indulged in playing the very jolly and not too profound card game of six-handed Euchre, — three tables of six each. The other group read at each meeting a Shakespeare play, judiciously cut to reduce the reading time to about two hours. The parts were given out in advance. There was no attempt at acting; the readers remained seated. One of the readers would also read the stage directions. I should not have said that there was never any acting. When Mr. Storrow built his house on High Street, he built a smaller room connecting with his larger room

by means of wide folding doors (or rather, sliding doors) with footlights (or rather side lights) set into the thickness of the wall, — the scene, through the years, of many a private theatrical show. Taking advantage of this little theatre, the Shakespeare Club, meeting one evening at Mr. Stowson's house, interrupted a reading of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* long enough to allow the artisans to slip into their costumes and wigs, catch up their properties, and put on a memorable performance of *Pyramus and Thisby*. The card games and the readings would end at 10 o'clock, and after a little ice cream and coffee, the company would be home early enough to get a good night's sleep. Simple pleasures, but very enjoyable.

It seemed to me that that was enough to say about the Shake.

pear Club on an occasion like your
proposed meeting. But I should
be glad of your views, if you feel
differently. Perhaps you would pre-
fer to wait until I can submit to
you the whole sketch, as the matter
of proportion comes into it. I don't
want to devote too much space to
any one subject.

Very truly yours

Henry Ware

22 HIGH STREET
BROOKLINE

Feb 17. 55

Dear Dr. Bowditch,

I can arrange to be at
the Historical Society meeting,
and so will read my Notes,
if you would like to have me
do so.

I have remembered that Jo
Walker was Speaker of the Massa-
chusetts House of Representatives,
and should be included among
those mentioned.

Yours very truly

Henry Ware

88 HIGH STREET
BROOKLINE

Feb 15 1911

Dear Mr. Brewster

I am very sorry to hear that you are unable to go to the States. I hope you will be able to go some day. I am sure you will find it very interesting.

I am very much interested in your work.

I am sure you will find it very interesting. I am sure you will find it very interesting.

Yours very truly

William Brewster